THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Prices of coffee in importing countries, who are members of the International Coffee Agreement depend on the quotas fixed, while prices in non-member countries generally depend on the position of surplus availability of coffee in exporting countries, after accounting for the requirements of I.C.A. Member countries. The prices in the two markets can vary widely.

Keeping in view the record crop of 1984, besides our normal exports to ICA Member countries in accordance with our quota, India had also contracted for substantial coffee exports to non-member countries including USSR.

The exports to the non-ICA markets have been effected at prices which compare favourably with the prices realised by other producing countries in such markets, although these are substantially lower than prices prevailing in ICA markets.

Further the prices, obtained on such exports are comparable to sales realizations in the domestic market, which are so regulated as to ensure remunerative returns to the growers.

There is no question of any loss to the coffee industry on account of exports to USSR or other non-quota markets.

Price of coffee

47. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what price per point the coffee industry has been able to obtain during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been no rise in the price of coffee for quite some time but there has been a substantial rise in the production cost during the last few years which may lead the industry towards sickness; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that the industry does not become sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Payments per Point declared for coffee for the last three coffee years (October—September) is as follows:—

Season	(Rs. per point)
1981-82	7.80
1982-83	7.70
1983-84	8.00

(b) The return to coffee growers in recent years has remained above the minimum release price which is fixed on the basis of an assessment of reasonable returns to coffee growers after meeting their costs.

(c) Question does not arise.

Consumer Price index

48. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the consumer price index for the last week of March, 1985 and first week of July 1985; and

(b) what action Government have taken to control the upward trend of consumer price index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (1960-100) is compiled on a monthly basis. The Consumer Price Index was 586 in March 1985 and 600 in May, 1985 (the latest available).

The thrust of Government's anti-inflationary policy continues to be on effective demand and supply management including strengthening of public distribution system, enforcement of fiscal discipline and keeping the aggregate liquidity in the system under control. The Central Government has advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketing.